the country in recent years. In 2006, the foreign tourist arrivals to India registered a growth of 13% over 2005. Even during the first two months of 2007, the foreign tourist arrivals have grown by about 15% over the corresponding period in 2006.

(c) The steps taken by the Ministry of Tourism for the security of foreign tourists include:—

* Requesting the State Governments to set up Tourist Police and deploy them at important/popular tourist destimations;
* Granting recognition/approval to Guides/Travel Agents and Transport Operators in order to standardize the service and to avoid unscrupulous activities, fleecing, over-charging etc.;
* Launching of a social awareness campaign "Atithi Devo Bhavah" to sensitize the stakeholders in tourism, and the public in general, to provide the inbound tourists with a sense of being welcomed by and to the country;
* Setting up of Tourist Arrival Centres, Reception Centres, Interpretation Centres.

Tax holiday for tourism projects

2383. SHRI P.R. RAJAN:
SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of conditional 10-year tax holiday proposed to be declared for all tourism projects in the country;

(b) whether the proposed tax holiday is going to start from 1st April, 2007;

(c) if so, whether her Ministry propose to put a condition that, at least, some portion of profit may be earmarked for promotion of tourism in the country; and

(d) whether her Ministry propose to favour nationalising sales tax in the tourism sector of States also?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) On the request of the Ministry of Tourism, the Finance Ministry has announced in his budget proposal 2007-08, Tax Holiday for 5 years under Section 80-ID (1) of the Income Tax Act for new hotels of budget category coming up between 1.4.2007 to 31.3.2010 in the National Capital Territory of Delhi and the Districts of Faridabad, Gurgaon, Gautam Budh Nagar and Ghaziabad.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Ministry of Tourism has been in touch with the State Governments for rationalisation and uniformity of taxes in the tourism industry.

Development of tribal tourism in Orissa

2384. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to focus on tribal tourism to improve the economy of backward regions of the country;

(b) whether Government are aware that Orissa has as good potential in tribal tourism; and

(c) if so, what is the action plan of Government to develop tribal tourism in Orissa to improve its economy?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Ministry of Tourism extends Central Financial Assistance to the State Governments/Union Territories for development of tourist infrastructure and promotion of tourism including rural tourism Products on the basis of the proposals received from them, subject to availability of funds and *inter-se* priority. These projects are sanctioned under "Product/ Infrastructure Development of Destinations and Circuits" Scheme. A list of projects developed for Orissa State during the Xth Plan is given in Statement (*See* below).

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Ministry of Tourism has prioritized development of the following schemes in consultation with the State Government of Orissa for granting